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for purposes of identification.*

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FOIA Officer
Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC

July 11, 2016

VIA FOIAonline

RE: FOIA REQUEST

Dear FOIA Officer,

This letter constitutes a request under the federal Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552, and is submitted on behalf of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press ("RCFP" or the "Reporters Committee") to the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"). The Reporters Committee is a nonprofit association of news reporters and editors.

Pursuant to the FOIA, I, on behalf of RCFP, request access to and copies of any assessment(s) and/or evaluation(s) of the EPA's FOIA program prepared by non-governmental entities between July 1, 2014 and present, as well as all records related to the procurement of and any payments made for such assessment(s) and/or evaluation(s). This request includes, but is not limited to, the final assessment(s)/evaluation(s) themselves (including any associated audits, reports, or memoranda), any contract(s) or agreement(s) concerning the assessments and/or evaluations, and records of any associated expenditures or payment information.

As a representative of the news media, I am only required to pay for the direct cost of duplication after the first 100 pages. This information is being sought on behalf of the Reporters Committee for free dissemination to the general public through its multiple publishing avenues, including RCFP's website,¹ social media accounts,² email newsletters, and *The News Media & The Law*,³ RCFP's quarterly magazine that has been continuously published

¹ www.rcfp.org

² <https://twitter.com/rcfp>; <https://www.facebook.com/ReportersCommittee>

³ <https://www.rcfp.org/magazine-archive>

since 1977.

In addition, I request that any fees associated with this request be waived pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii). Disclosure of this information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations and activities of the EPA—specifically how it is administering FOIA and expending public funds. Disclosure of these records is likely to contribute to the public’s understanding of how the EPA performs its statutory duties under FOIA, which is a subject of much debate in light of the law’s 50th anniversary and the passage of the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016.⁴

This request is not primarily in the commercial interest of the Reporters Committee. RCFP is a designated 501(c)(3) nonprofit association of news reporters and editors, and this information is being sought for free dissemination to the general public through its several publishing avenues.

In the event that my request for a fee waiver is denied, I am willing to pay up to \$25.00 to process my request. Please inform me if the fees will exceed that amount before proceeding.

I look forward to your determination within 20 working days of this request, as is required by law. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me by email at amarshall@rcfp.org.

Sincerely,

Adam A. Marshall

Jack Nelson - Dow Jones Legal Fellow
Reporters Committee for
Freedom of the Press

⁴ See, e.g., Luis Ferre Sadurni, *President Obama Signs FOIA Reform Bill into Law on 50th Anniversary*, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press (Jun. 30, 2016), <http://www.rcfp.org/browse-media-law-resources/news/president-obama-signs-foia-reform-bill-law-50th-anniversary>.